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# THE SELTZER-CHAN POND INLET FOUNDATION

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## COMPUTER COMMUNICATION

Mimi Kasarnak is a 26-year old Pond Inlet resident who has severe hearing and speech impairments. While she was in school a special needs assistant helped Mimi learn American Sign Language (ASL) but her skills have become rusty since leaving school. Although Mimi made good use of the computer facilities at the Public Library her access there was limited. With support from the Foundation, Mimi now has a computer, a printer and ASL software to use at home whenever she wants.

Mimi lives with her daughter Napastie, her father, and her two sisters. Napastie and her mother use their own private sign language to communicate. With their home computer, both Mimi and Napastie can practice American

Sign Language. Mimi's father hopes that the computer will help his daughter and granddaughter stay "connected" as Napastie grows up, and that Mimi will find other productive uses for the computer while Napastie is at school.

Many people deserve thanks for helping Mimi realize this dream: her father, Ham, for having the idea; Philippa Ootoowak for preparing the funding application; Jonathan Case, the Northern Store manager who negotiated a special equipment price; Lena Koonoo, an American Sign Language interpreter; Siutiapik Peter who set up the computer and printer for Mimi; and you, the Seltzer Chan Pond Inlet Foundation donors for providing the funding.



*Foreground: Mimi Kasarnak. Background: Lena Koonoo (ASL interpreter) with her son Cain Koonoo in the amouti and Napastie Kasarnak (Mimi's daughter)*

## THE 2005 GRANTS

The Foundation is proud to announce that a total of \$7260 was distributed to nine recipients in 2005:

- **Naudia Aooloo**, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Louise Innauluk**, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Mimi Kasarnak**, to purchase a computer
- **Sherry Katsak Parks**, Nursing Program, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Janice Kautainuk**, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Jonathan Maktar**, Office Administration Program, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Layli Parks**, Office Administration Program, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Amina Quaraq**, Arctic College, Iqaluit
- **Jenny Tongak**, Arctic College, Iqaluit

QUJANNAMIIRAALUK (really big thank you!) to Pond Inlet committee members Joshua Idlout, Lucy Quasa and Colin Saunders who reviewed the applications to the Foundation in 2005.

## YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Any donation you make to the Seltzer Chan Pond Inlet Foundation is used to support grant recipients. The printing and mailing costs of the newsletter are donated by board members. It's hard to think of a charity where your money has a more direct effect on individuals. We're proud of this memorial to Mark and Marilyn and we hope you will continue to help us support education and Inuit culture in Pond Inlet.

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Charitable registration number 87321 3276 RR0001  
Canadian donations will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

Directors:  
Dorene Seltzer ~ Gareth Seltzer ~  
Rosemary Waterston ~ Phillip King

## HISTORY OF THE FOUNDATION

After the tragic deaths of Mark and Marilyn in July 1998, the Chan family, the Seltzer family and close friends wished to do something in their memory which would reflect the way in which Mark and Marilyn helped others less fortunate than themselves. Since Mark and Marilyn had visited the Arctic several times and loved the area and its people, a decision was made to set up a foundation. The aims of the foundation are to alleviate poverty, to assist with education and to preserve Inuit culture.

Setting up a foundation is an onerous task. George Bihus, who, with his wife Olya, had been a good friend of Mark and Marilyn, offered to take on the demanding work. Much had to be done including an application for incorporation, government approval of the goals of the foundation, a statement of activities, by-laws, letters patent, an application for income tax registration etc. All these various required tasks were handled extremely competently by George. Registration was granted and the Seltzer Chan Pond Inlet Foundation came into being in 1999.

We will always be extremely grateful to George for his handling of this work. It speaks very clearly of the friendship he and Olya shared with Mark and Marilyn and keeps our memories of Mark and Marilyn even more vivid.



*Mark and Marilyn in Churchill, Manitoba, 1992.*